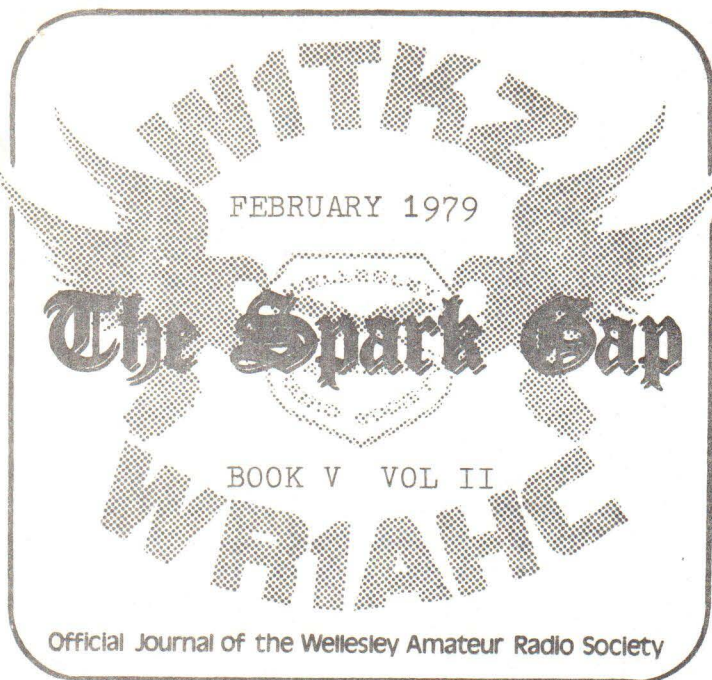




It Seems to Me...

To the average ham, the world of amateur radio is a wonderful one, with the possibility of worldwide communications at the flick of a switch, plus the good provided by Amateur radio in the various emergencies that arise during the year. But to become too complacent about the good in Amateur radio can be dangerous to our future. Just in the past year or so there have been a number of threats to the future of Amateur radio (and I'm not talking about WARC either). Do you remember Rick Cooper who claimed to be the leader of a large group of CB'ers, who under the guise of the "Communications Attorney Service" claimed to be circulating a petition with millions of signatures proposing that all CB'ers be given the privileges of an Amateur General license. That these claims soon died out in a tangle of falsehoods should not lessen the potential danger there. Or how about the Jack Anderson column that was printed in newspapers all over the U.S. Sure much of the information in it about Amateur radio was wrong, but unless another source is readily available, who in the general public is going to know?

Right in our own ranks, there have

been people who certainly have not helped the good name of Amateur radio any. Several months ago, two hams in 5-land were convicted of malicious interference to repeaters, and within the last few weeks a similar case has come out of California, with the person who operated as "W6JAM" pleading guilty to a number of charges brought on him. Isolated cases, you say? Well unfortunately it is this type of bad news that makes the media and so is too often what the public sees.

It doesn't take too many of the above types of things to hurt the image of Amateur radio. Thus it is the responsibility of each and every ham to make sure that he is not the cause of any bad publicity. It is too easy for bad operating to be heard over the air, not only from those licensed but also from anyone who manages to pick up an Amateur rig. Any obvious bootleggers should be ignored as any response to their antics will probably encourage them. But to a lesser extent legitimate hams can cause problems, maybe not serious enough for them to be brought to trial, but bad enough for some outsider listening in to question the opinion we give about Amateur radio.

The bottom line to all this is that each one of us must make public relations start at home, first by cleaning up any possible irregularities in his own operating procedures, and then by participating in public service activities, which membership in WARS gives ample opportunity to do. □

ANNOUNCEMENT

At the February 1st meeting, it will be our pleasure to have Bob Beaudet, W1YRC as our guest speaker. He is the veteran of DXpeditions, and will be speaking on his experiences. Should be a good meeting, and it is hoped that you can attend. □

MEETINGS THIS MONTH: _____

February 1, 1979 at 7:30 p.m.

February 15, 1979 at 7:30 p.m.

Intermediate Bldg., Wellesley Hills, Mass.

profiles

This month, Profiles takes a look at Nels Anderson, K1UR, one of our very active club members and new editor of the Spark Gap.

Nels is a native of Connecticut, having been born in Newington in January of 1956 and living also in West Hartford and Weston, before graduating from college and moving to this area and his current residence in Chestnut Hill.

During his early years in central Connecticut, Nels missed out on an early exposure to Amateur Radio. He remembers often riding past an odd looking building with the letters W1AW on it and wondering why he never heard this station on the air. Nels did not get started in Amateur radio until 1974 in his senior year in high school when one of the other students in the school discovered that there was a complete station available and restarted a ham club that had died out a few years before. In a few months without the aid of any licensing class, he had passed the Novice exam and that summer received his first call, WN1TUH, and was on the air with a borrowed Collins 32V-2 and a TMC GPR-92A general coverage receiver. A year later he upgraded to General and changed his call to WA1TUH. In November of 1977 Nels completed the climb through the Amateur ranks by the passing of the Extra class exam and receiving his current call of K1UR in January of 1978.

Nels is a graduate of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, having received his BS degree in electrical engineering last June. While at WPI, he spent a great deal of time operating W1YK, the club station there, and was very active in the WPI Wireless Association, serving as vice-president and president respectively during his junior and senior years. At WPI he was also a member of the bowling team for four years. Since graduation he has been working for Honeywell Information Systems in their computer terminals division. He is also a member of the 1200 Radio club at Honeywell and can sometimes be

found operating their club station, W1DC.

Nels is active in all phases of Amateur radio, and particularly enjoys contesting. While at WPI, he won section awards in the ARRL Ten Meter Contest during the 1976 and 1977 events. He has also been very active on the ten meter band with the 10-X International Net, having participated actively in their operating events. He is currently working toward the award they offer for contacting 1000 other members. He currently has over 800 of the required contacts and expects to get the others in the near future.

Nels has been a member of WARS for about two years. He first got involved with the club through Chris Wiles, who he met at college and with whom he now shares an apartment.



Photograph WA1RGA

At the present, Nels is not too active on the air from the home QTH, as apartments are not too good for low band operations, but does occasionally fire up his TS-520 into a random wire he has on the roof. It doesn't work too badly either at times, as he has managed to work Australia and Chatham Island, both all the way on the other side of the earth. He also has his car set up for low band operation. For two meter work, he has an ICOM IC-22S and a Wilson Mark IV.

As you can see, Nels has been a very active ham for the past four years, and expects to continue for many years to come. □

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: NELS J. ANDERSON, K1UR
32 WESTGATE ROAD, APT. 6
CHESTNUT HILL, MASS. 02167

THE "SPARK GAP" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, P.C.C. RULES & REGULATIONS CHANGES, AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADED BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SEND THEIR ARTICLES (TYPEWRITTEN IF POSSIBLE) TO THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OR TO THE CLUB ADDRESS.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS \$5. THE CLUB YEAR RUNS FROM SEPTEMBER 1 - JUNE 30. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS, OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE:

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
324 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181



Minutes

By George Young, W1YAU

January 4, 1979:

Called to order at 7:55 p.m. The President praised everyone who participated at the Natick Mall Message Fair for the fine job they did. The Treasurer read his report, announcing a balance of \$1807.05. \$28.88 was spent to print the Spark Gap's January issue. Printing was done by Gnomon Copy in Cambridge. Jim announced that the message fair originated 1003 pieces of traffic.

After the treasurer's report, the President announced that Joe McGrath was in a serious jeep accident in December and that he is now back at work.

Dave Curry, K1TK, handed out questionnaires for those who wanted to participate in the SET on January 28th.

Dave Smith, K1BSO, talked about CPR then showed a demonstration and film. The meeting ended at 9:15 p.m. □

Executive Minutes

January 6, 1979:

Called to order at 7:50 p.m. On the subject of printing, the president announced that the club will not buy a printing press.

The club's education program took up most of the meeting. Several reforms were needed in this program, as such the president proposed that the education chairman be given a book of procedures to help him in his work, also, the club should have one set of instruction methods instead of the present six. Code practice was next on the agenda. The main problem was that there was no code practice in the club general classes. To remedy this, the president has decided to look into buying a cassette recorder for classroom use.

Dave Curry, K1TK, was assigned the task of buying a QRP rig, and Pete Spotts presented his ideas on QRP awards that the club could sponsor. The ideas were for a Massachusetts QRP QSO party and a miles per watt award. It was decided that the club should sponsor a worked-all-states contest for club members only and Dave Curry and Nels Anderson, K1UR, would work out the rules for presentation at the next club meeting.

Sites for the 1979 Field Day were discussed with several new proposals made to be looked into further. The club's emergency plan which has become out of date was discussed with plans for revision made. The meeting ended at 10:55 p.m. □

Hearabouts....

Garry Anderson, WB1DGV, has added the first harmonic to his family, a baby girl....Rick Beebe, K1PAD, is our new Section Communications Manager (SCM) having won the recent election over Frank Baker, W1ALP. We would like to thank Frank for his 38 years of continuous service to the hams of the Eastern Massachusetts section in the role of SCM. □

PETE'S PEANUT WHISTLE

By Pete Spotts, N1ABS

When was the last time you tried contesting QRP-style? It's a challenge to be sure. But there is no question about the fact that you can pull in a fair number of contacts, and even collar a QSO or two that would help you qualify for a WAS or similar award.

I gave contesting a brief shot for the first time during November's CW Sweepstakes. After three hours on the air, I amassed the magnificent total of 144 points. But the contacts ranged from Guantanamo, Cuba, to California, and were it not for the fact that I am not really a night owl (a necessary prerequisite for the hardened contest-er) I would have gone the distance.

There is an Indianapolis 500, gentlemen-key-your-transmitters type of quality to the five minutes prior to the contest's starting time. Carriers abound. And it's easy to tell whose clocks are off when three minutes before the appointed time "CQ SS" begins to pop up here and there across the bands. But when the clock strikes 2100Z, every band nearly becomes solid carrier from the enormous number of stations that are competing.

So where does the QRPer fit into this picture? Well, you have one very important thing going for you. You are another badly sought-after QSO for the diehard tester, who generally will strain his ears to the limit to pick out stations.

And, as is usual with QRP work, calling the other guy generally will net you more contacts than trying to call "CQ SS" yourself.

Most of the necessary operating tips for low power contesting can be found in a well-written article "Sweepstakes for the Little Guy" (QST, October 1978; page 48).

Another, more successful shot at QRP contesting took place in December during the Natick Mall message fair. Saul Dinman, K1PDX, and his son Mark, WB1FCO, brought along their Yaesu 10-

watt cw/ssb transceiver and took a shot at the ARRL's 10 Meter Contest.

Many of the hams there, including myself, operated during the contest. We kept logs on the back of some of the promotional handouts we had on the display tables. Contacts ranged throughout the U.S., including Hawaii. And in the six-and-a-half hours I was at the mall, we filled the back of at least three "log" sheets (8½x11) with contest contacts. I never heard the estimated total score, but considering the time, place, and antenna (a vertical on the mall's roof), we made a respectable showing. And it turned out to be a great drawing card for crowds.

There is at least one contest that I know of geared specifically to the QRPer. It usually takes place in October and is sponsored by the QRP Amateur Radio Club International.

So just because you're running low power, don't limit your ham radio activities to an occasional QSO. Contesting for the QRPer is a challenge, but it also is great fun! □

FROM THE MAILBAG



Since it was your Novice class that got Kathy and me started in ham radio in the winter of 1977, I thought you might be interested in a "status report", since we moved to Maryland last February.

First, after many, many weeks of studying the Hadley School for the Blind materials on radio theory, and hours of reviewing the Ameco study guide with me, Kathy went to Baltimore and passed her Technician exam on the first try. Her monumental effort was promptly rewarded with a Wilson Mark II which she occasionally lets me borrow! She is now N3AHT.

Second, I treated myself to a Drake TR-7, my first HF rig. I buckled down on the code and passed my General. I QSO regularly Sunday mornings at 9:15 on 7.292 (down) with WB1DQC and others in Massachusetts. A whole new world of ham radio has opened up for me!

Finally, I was just elected President of the Maryland Amateur Radio Association--a one-year old club in desperate need of strong leadership. I look forward to the challenge with

great excitement.

I have so enjoyed reading the Spark Gap in the past, that it is well worth the \$5 to renew my membership to continue reading it in the future. Nels has quite a challenge to match the fine job that Jim Hatherley did! I hope you don't mind carrying an out-of-stater on your membership list!

73, Fred N3AMR, ex-WB1DQR

MESSAGE FAIR

By Jim Hatherley, WA1TBV

For the most part the Message Fair worked out pretty well but strangely, it was the local traffic that was the hardest to deliver, mostly due to our people not checking into the local net to take the traffic as it was given. The long haul traffic went out with very little interruption and consequently may have reached its destination long before the local traffic. This points out the need for more participation by the club members to get this traffic delivered. As it was we had to relay local traffic to the local cw nets and the Heavy Hitters Traffic net on 2 meters to total strangers. Though they were glad to help us, it was sad not to see more of the Wellesley group taking traffic from the mall.

Another observation was a need for better addresses. We got back about 70 or so service messages from hams all over the countryside who tried but didn't succeed, often due to wrong information. Also, in handling the service messages I would look up the proper message number and it would be almost completely different from what the delivering station had mentioned the addressee to be. Obviously this was a case of getting garbled enroute and it calls for better message handling before QSL'ing a message.

Still another observation, at the mall we did compose 1003 messages but we could have done more to attract interest in Amateur Radio had we had some sort of movie or slide show going all the time. Lack of it made our display just another thing in the lobby rather than something to whet a prospective Amateur's appetite. I would think that in future years, it would be considered essential to have a Ham movie going all the time to show the many sides of Amateur Radio. □

Announcing: WARSWAS!

In reading the newsletters sent out by several other clubs, it was noticed that a couple of them have contests for club members during the year. This sounded like a fun idea for us to try too, so we herein announce the first WARSWAS (Wellesley Amateur Radio Society Worked All States) contest. This is open to all WARS members, with the basic idea being to contact as many of the 50 states as possible between Feb. 1st and March 31st. There will be prizes for the top three entries (not yet decided) as well as a special certificate for the top Novice/Technician entry and a separate category for those who cannot operate their own station. So how about warming up that old rig and go for a few of those 50 states. With band conditions being what they have been lately, a good time is promised for all! Rules:

- 1) All paid up WARS members eligible.
- 2) Contest period 2/1 thru 3/31/79, full GMT period.
- 3) Complete logs of all claimed contacts required.
- 4) Exchange: must receive a signal report and state from the station contacted.
- 5) Power limited to 200 watts.
- 6) No QSO's made during other contests or in nets are eligible.
- 7) Prizes: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, plus certificates for all. Special certificate for top Novice/Technician if he does not win one of the top three, plus a separate contest for those who do not operate their own station.
- 8) Scoring: Rankings will be according to the date WAS is completed, then according to the number of states worked during the contest period.
- 9) Categories: General-anyone operating his own station; Novice/Technician-any Novice or Technician class operator with special certificate for the top entry; Non-home station-for operators who cannot operate their own station a special endorsement will be available on their certificate, but they will not be eligible for the top three prizes.
- 10) Entries must be received at the club by April 10, and the results will be in the May Spark Gap. □

CLEARING THE AIR

By Pete Spotts, N1ABS

Much has been written recently about the upcoming World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC) to be held in Geneva, Switzerland in December. Depending on whose story you read, the prognostications are either total disaster for the future of Amateur Radio, on the one hand, or rosey don't-worry-we've-got-it-under-control tales on the other. I suspect the truth lies somewhere in between.

But no story I have yet read really touches on the key issue involved. A glimpse at the real issue can be gleaned from the recent United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) conference on the media and the draft declaration that almost resulted.

The purpose of the meeting was to draw up international media guidelines for adoption by the United Nations. The proposal offered by third world and non-aligned nations sought to internationally legitimize government control over news that comes out of their countries, even if the story was written by a western correspondent. In the West, we call it prior censorship. Already there are move afoot to establish an alternative news agency for non-aligned nations, which would compete with the four major wire services.

What prompted these efforts? The third world countries felt they were being treated unfairly in the US/Western European-dominated press. Most of the stories appearing on wire service telex machines dealt either with famine, revolutions, natural disasters, wars, or disease.

Third world nations will be the first to admit that they haven't licked all their problems yet. But they also point out with much validity that very little is being written or broadcast about their efforts to solve their problems. Their proposed solution to solve the bad press problem is unacceptable by western democratic standards. But their reasons for trying to push their solution through are quite understandable.

This, coupled with their perception that the industrialized nations are consuming most of the world's resources

at the expense of the "little guys", leaves little wonder that third world nations are trying as best they know how to gain more of what they see as their rightful share of all resources including radio frequencies. One can also see why they are more interested in setting up their own shortwave stations so they can broadcast to the rest of the world their version of news from the third world, then they are in seeing the ham bands expanded.

Thus, the problem boils down to how the third world countries perceive themselves and their role in international affairs. And that perception depends almost entirely on how the third world countries are treated, or in some cases not treated, by the rest of the international community. The issue is much greater and more profound than just the existence or expansion of ham radio.

As one begins to grasp this, it becomes evident that the answer lies not in sending amateur transmitter/receiver kits to third world countries as a last minute stop-gap measure to try to save the bands. The inherent selfishness in the motives behind that program are readily apparent not only to the thinking westerner, but the thinking resident of the third world as well. Had the program been adopted ten years ago out of a true motive of friendship it might have been a worthwhile project. But it wasn't until the short space of a year before the 1979 WARC conference that such a program was initiated. It seems that we didn't move until the last minute, and then only because we wanted to hold on dearly to what we have, not because we genuinely wanted to share the hobby.

What can we do? First, admit past mistakes. Then, act on that knowledge from a broader standpoint than narrow self-interest. The solution to the problem lies in ethical and moral realms, which then can be translated into actions. It lies in ideas, considered outmoded by some, like true equality, brotherhood, and cooperation between men and nations.

These are ideals, to be sure. But individual commitment to these ideals and their practical expression can be made by each one of us. Think about it the next time you are tempted to make that overly quick DX exchange. □

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

By Nels Anderson, K1UR

The Communications Department of ARRL is one of the busiest, but many hams are not too familiar with it. I often notice when I operate during the quarterly CD Parties (operating contests for CD members) that many people have no idea what the CD is, or that it exists even. During any given CD Party I end up spending several QSO's explaining what is going on and what the CD is, so an article with a fuller explanation seemed like a good idea.

The Communications Department is responsible for all operating activities. At ARRL headquarters, the person in overall charge is the communications manager. Under him are several assistants, and others. These people are responsible on the national level for operating activities such as the many ARRL contests, the National Traffic System, etc.

On the local level is the Section Communications Manager. He is the person responsible for all communications activities in that section, in our case, the Eastern Massachusetts section. Under him there are the section emergency coordinator who is responsible for emergency planning and training. Also there are net managers and the section traffic manager who are responsible for traffic handling in the section. The ability of an area to handle an emergency such as last February's blizzard is to a great extent dependent on what kind of organization these people have built under themselves, and the importance of having an active, interested person in each of these positions cannot be stressed enough.

In addition to these leadership positions, there are a number of CD appointments which are available for any League member, with enough variety that at least one should be suited to any active ham. The oldest of this group is the OTS or official traffic station, formerly known under two different appointments as ORS and OPS. This is for any traffic handler who is fairly active on a day-to-day basis. As with any CD position, he is expected to operate with the best possible

procedures and so to set an example for others, something that is greatly needed with the large influx of newcomers recently.

The OES or official emergency station appointment is for the person interested especially in emergency preparedness. To be eligible, it is necessary to be able to operate with emergency power and to prepare yourself for that emergency by regular practice.

The OVS or official VHF station is for the person who enjoys experimental work on the higher ham bands, such as work in repeaters, moon bounce, space communications, and any other form of activity above 50 MHz.

The OBS or official bulletin station is responsible for relaying the official bulletins that originate over W1AW to local hams. He is expected to copy these bulletins off the air and retransmit them as an aid in keeping other local hams informed of happenings in the world of Amateur radio.

The last and possibly the most important is the OO or official observer. There are three classes of this appointment depending on the capabilities of the operator. The intent of this appointment is to warn fellow hams of possible conditions that are in violation of the Amateur rules and could result in problems with the FCC. The emphasis is laid on friendly and helpful service to other Amateurs, in the long-lived spirit of Amateur radio in self-policing. So important is this position, that to be eligible one must be licensed at a class above Novice for at least four years to be eligible.

This is a basic outline of the positions and operations of the Communications Department. If you are interested in any of the above appointments you may get more information and an application from the Eastern Massachusetts SCM, Rick Beebe, K1PAD, 82 Wyman Road, Billerica, Mass. 01821. □

Auctions / Flea Markets

The Worcester Polytechnic Institute Wireless Association, W1YK, will sponsor a flea market on the campus of WPI March 31 from 9 am. Tables are \$5.00, reservations preferred via Box 2393 WPI Worcester, Mass. 01609. For further information locally, contact K1TK □

hr REPORT

The FCC in their just released final report on WARC 79 has proposed that cw ability would only be "recommended" for the Amateur service. This would change the present requirement that each country issuing Amateur licenses test applicants in the code for licenses allowing operation below 144 MHz.

Also in this report, the FCC has proposed that the Amateur service be given a portion of the 902-928 MHz band, along with the Fixed, Radio location and Mobile Services. However, even if this were adopted in Geneva, the use of this band would still depend on the FCC's decision about CB radio at 900 MHz.

hr Report, January 5, 1979

The SYNCOM IV satellite has been scratched and with it hope for having an Amateur transponder in synchronous orbit in the near future. However, AMSAT Canada will complete their transponder with the expectation that another opportunity will come up.

hr Report, January 12, 1979

Duncan, Arizona, isolated by pre-Christmas flooding in that usually dry state depended very heavily on Amateur radio for communications during the emergency. Ten Duncan Amateurs, working around the clock, provided the Red Cross and National Guard units with necessary communications from noon on December 19 through Christmas day. Both 2 meters and 450 MHz were utilized for the operation, which used remote base stations WB5QHS and WB7KUM to link the city with aid from as far away as the West Coast until commercial communications were restored.

hr Report, January 5, 1979

447 alleged CB linears were seized December 15 when government agents raided Brewer Labs in Parker, Okla. Company president Ab Brewer claims most of the seized equipment was actually transmitters, with only 23 linears--all manufactured before the FCC ban--in the haul. Brewer also makes battery chargers, power supplies, bur-

gler alarms and TVI filters.

A Tennessee CB dealer, Edward Milliken of Double J Electronics, was sentenced to five years probation after pleading guilty to selling a CB linear in U.S. District Courts recently. 160 illegal amplifiers were seized in the raid on Double J.

hr Report, December 29, 1978

A new departure in FCC preliminaries to rule making is being tried in the Commission's inquiry into RFI problems, General Docket 78-369. This new approach hinges on the widespread distribution of attractively presented, color-coded special editions of the Notice of Inquiry, complete with survey forms for the recipients to fill out and return.

The inquiry, to "study the problem of radio frequency interference and the need for Government regulation to help lessen such interference" was announced November 15 with the inquiry packets available early in January. The packets are to be distributed in places where they can reach the maximum number of people. Due date for comments on the docket is May 1, with Reply Comments due by July 1.

hr Report, January 12, 1979

Amateurs holding more than one call sign who wish to retain the call assigned to their secondary station when renewing must be sure to renew well before expiration. One West Coast contester lost his prized 1x2 recently when his renewal application, complete with request to reassign his 1x2 to his primary (surviving) station license, arrived at Gettysburg a few days after the license expiration date. As his no longer renewable secondary license had expired, its 1x2 call sign was no longer his and thus could not, under the rules, be assigned to him.

hr Report, December 29, 1978

ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE

TELETYPE - Kleinschmidt TT-100/FG page printer, with spare motor and pedestal mount with power supply built in for \$75.00. Please call Bob Woodbury, K1ZL, at 785-1423. □